

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26-28, and 30 remain pending and at issue in the above identified patent application. Of the claims at issue, claims 1, 17, and 24 are independent. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

#### **Allowable Claims**

The applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 4, 6, 22, and 29 would be allowable is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. The applicants have amended that claims thusly.

In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 4. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

Similarly, independent claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 22. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 and all claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

Finally, independent claim 24 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 29. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 24 and all claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

The remaining amendments are presented to conform the claims to the recitations of the newly amended independent claims.

**Conclusion**

Reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof are respectfully requested. If there is any matter that the examiner would like to discuss, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required during the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 50-2455.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hanley, Flight & Zimmerman, LLC  
150 South Wacker Drive  
Suite 2100  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

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/Keith R. Jarosik/  
Keith R. Jarosik  
Reg. No. 47,683  
Attorney for Applicants  
(312) 580-1133